

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicants' attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and remarks.

It is acknowledged with appreciation that claims 1, 5-7, 10 and 12 have been deemed allowable.

The specification has been amended to improve its form. No new matter has been added.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Koichi, JP 55-050659, and under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Wislocky et al. in view of Koichi.

Claim 13 calls for, among other limitations, "a discrete circular connection connecting said annular rib and said annular flange connecting said first pole to said flange". In the Office Action, it was set forth that the device shown by Koichi includes "an inherent circular connector (middle portion of 10) connecting said annular rib and said annular flange". However, it is clear that Koichi does not show a discrete circular connector as set forth in claim 13.

If the annular rib is directly connected to the annular flange as shown by Koichi, improper fitting of the parts can cause stress and cause failure. For example, if the pole is uneven, or the die is uneven, the gap between the annular rib and the flange varies. Such variance may cause stress and thus cause failure along the joint between the annular rib and the flange.

On the other hand, when a third, discrete connector, such as a circular connector is used, the connector, when installed between the annular rib and the flange, is adapted to the unevenness thereby avoiding undue stress. Thus, using a discrete circular connector is advantageous. It is respectfully submitted that because a discrete circular connector is not taught or suggested by the art of record, claim 1 should not be deemed anticipated or obvious over the same. Reconsideration is requested.

Each of claims 14-21 depends from claim 13, and thus includes its limitations. Each of these claims includes other limitations which in combination with those of claim 13 are not shown or suggested by the art of record. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Wislocky et al. in view of Koichi. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 22, calls for, in combination with other limitations, a second pole which includes an annular flange that penetrates and is embedded in the interior wall of the insulation ring to

anchor the pole to the insulation ring. Penetrating the sidewall (and thus anchoring the pole to the sidewall of the insulation ring) allows the pole to be received deeper within the insulation ring and thus desirably allows for the reduction of the height of the package. On the other hand, Koichi does not at all show the annular flange of a pole penetrating any portion of the insulation ring, and Wislocky et al. only show the end exterior walls of the insulation ring penetrated by the annular flange. Anchoring the pole to the bottom wall as shown by Wislocky et al. undesirably increases the height of the package. It is respectfully submitted that the art of record does not teach or suggest anchoring the pole to the inner sidewall of the insulation ring by embedding the annular flange in the same as called for by claim 22, and thus the art of record does not anticipate or render claim 22 obvious. Reconsideration is requested.

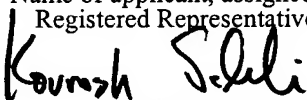
Each of claims 2 and 23-25 depends from claim 22 and thus includes its limitations. Each of these claims includes other limitations which in combination with those of claim 22 are not shown or suggested by the art of record. Reconsideration is requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

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Kourosh Salehi

Name of applicant, assignee or  
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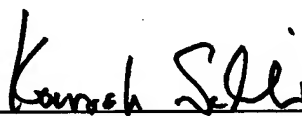


Signature

October 17, 2003

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Kourosh Salehi

Registration No.: 43,898

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700

KS:gl